CATHOLIC · ACTION ·

Vol. XXV, No. 5 May, 1943

NCCS ON THE SPIRITUAL FRONT

OUR COMMON CATHOLIC INTERESTS

Featured Sections:

National Councils of Catholic Men and Catholic Women — Social Action Department — Bureau of Immigration — With the N. C. W. C. — The Bookshelf

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FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"Over a manifold activity of the laity, carried on in various localities according to the needs of the times, is placed the National Catholic Welfare Conference, an organization which supplies a ready and well-adapted instrument for your episcopal ministry."—Pope Pius XII.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference was organized in September, 1919.

The N. C. W. C. is a common agency acting under the authority of the bishops to promote the welfare of the Catholics of the country.

It has for its incoporated purposes "unifying, coordinating and organizing the Catholic people of the United States in works of education, social welfare, immigrant aid and other activities."

It comprises the following departments and bureaus:

EXECUTIVE—Bureaus maintained: *Immigration, National Center Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Information, Publications, Family Life, Business and Auditing, and* CATHOLIC ACTION, monthly publication, N. C. W. C.

YOUTH—Facilitates exchange of information regarding the philosophy, organization, and program-content of Catholic youth organizations; promotes the National Catholic Youth Council, the federating agency for all existing, approved Catholic youth groups; contacts and evaluates national governmental and non-governmental youth organizations and youth servicing organizations.

EDUCATION—Divisions: *Statistics and Information, Teacher Placement, Research Catholic Education, Library Service, and Inter-American Collaboration.*

PRESS—Serves the Catholic press in the United States and abroad with regular *news, features, editorial and pictorial services.*

SOCIAL ACTION—Covers the fields of *Industrial Relations, International Affairs, Civic Education, Social Welfare, and Rural Life.*

LEGAL—Serves as a clearing house of information on federal, state and local legislation.

LAY ORGANIZATIONS—Includes the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, which maintain at N. C. W. C. headquarters permanent representations in the interests of the Catholic laity. These councils function through some 3,500 affiliated societies—national, state, diocesan, district, local and parish; also through units of the councils in many of the dioceses.

CATHOLIC ACTION STUDY—Devoted to research and reports as to pronouncements, methods, programs and achievements in the work of Catholic Action at home and abroad.

The N. C. C. M. maintains at its national headquarters a *Catholic Evidence Bureau,* sponsors a weekly nation-wide radio *Catholic Hour* over the network of the National Broadcasting Company, and conducts a Catholic Radio Bureau.

The N. C. C. W. maintains in Washington, D. C., the *National Catholic School of Social Service.*

The Conference is conducted by an administrative board composed of ten archbishops and bishops aided by seven assistant bishops.

Each department of the N. C. W. C. is administered by an episcopal chairman.

Through the general secretary, chief executive officer of the Conference, the reports of the departments and information on the general work of the headquarters' staff are sent regularly to the members of the administrative board.

The administrative bishops of the Conference report annually upon their work to the Holy See.

Annually at the general meeting of the bishops, detailed reports are submitted by the administrative bishops of the Conference and authorization secured for the work of the coming year.

No official action is taken by any N. C. W. C. department without authorization of its episcopal chairman.

No official action is taken in the name of the whole Conference without authorization and approval of the administrative board.

It is not the policy of the N. C. W. C. to create new organizations.

It helps, unifies, and leaves to their own fields those that already exist.

It aims to defend and to advance the welfare both of the Catholic Church and of our beloved Country.

It seeks to inform the life of America of right fundamental principles of religion and morality.

It is a central clearing house of information regarding activities of Catholic men and women.

All that are helped may play their part in promoting the good work and in maintaining the common agency, the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

CATHOLIC ACTION records monthly the work of the Conference and its affiliated organizations. It presents our common needs and opportunities. Its special articles are helpful to every Catholic organization and individual.

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CATHOLIC ACTION

"CATHOLIC ACTION consists not merely of the pursuits of personal Christian perfection, which is however before all others its first and greatest end, but it also consists of a true apostolate in which Catholics of every social class participate, coming thus to be united in thought and action around those centers of sound doctrine and multiple social activity, legitimately constituted and, as a result, aided and sustained by the authority of the bishops."
—Pope Pius XI.

Monthly Publication of the

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

VOL. XXV, No. 5 MAY, 1943

OUR COMMON CATHOLIC INTERESTS

War Manpower Commission Places "Church Activities" on Index of Essential Activities

IN the March issue of CATHOLIC ACTION, it was noted that even though the Bishops of the United States had requested that church activities be included in the *Index of Essential Activities* and shown cause for their request, the War Manpower Commission had not seen fit to grant the request. Correspondence in the matter between the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, was made a part of the record in that issue.

It is, therefore, with a great deal of satisfaction that we are able to note here the fact that "church activities" have been added to the *Index of Essential Activities,* that the listing now appears in the public version of the Index "and will also appear in any revisions which the Selective Service System makes in its Occupational Bulletins." This information has been made public in a letter addressed to Monsignor Ready by Mr. McNutt.

"Liberal interpretation of the category 'Church activities'," says Mr. McNutt, "would encompass all those activities which are mentioned or discussed by churches."

In the earlier exchange of communications, Monsignor Ready drew Mr. McNutt's attention to the fact that the WMC committee had omitted religious, charitable and educational occupations from the *Index of Essential Activities.* He said there was no intention on the part of the Catholic Church to make unreasonable demands of the WMC regarding the "essential activities" of religious facilities and service—including hospitals, schools, orphanages, asylums, cemeteries, the press, etc.—nor to question the fairness of local Selective Service boards, but he asked that "local boards be not stopped in granting just recognition of the service these religious institutions give in our American communities."

Monsignor Ready told Mr. McNutt that "the OPA, the WPB and every war bureau, as well as Selective Service and the U. S. Employment Service, will be guided by the committee's list in deciding whether religious institutional requirements are essential to our nation's cause."

Mr. McNutt has now replied to Monsignor Ready as follows:

"Upon receipt of your recent letter, I asked the War Manpower Commission's Committee on Essential Activities to consider the questions posed by you. The committee has recently informed me that it has now added 'Church activities' to the *Index of Essential Activities,* so that it now appears in the public version which was distributed recently to all local offices of the United States

Employment Service, and will also appear in any revisions which the Selective Service System makes in its Occupational Bulletins. As you know, such revisions are made from time to time, and in order to insure that church activities do appear in the next revision of the appropriate Occupational Bulletin, I am having this brought to the attention of Major General Hershey.

"Liberal interpretation of the category 'Church activities' would encompass all those activities which are mentioned or discussed by churches. I trust that this action will relieve some of the difficulties you have been encountering in the past because 'Church activities' were not specifically listed in the *List of Essential Activities.*"

Faithful of United States Invited by Holy Father to Join Him in Peace Prayers During May

POPE PIUS XII has issued a special invitation to the Bishops, priests, religious and faithful of the United States to join with him in prayer throughout the month of May. The invitation to join with His Holiness in invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary was extended through His Eminence, Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, and has been communicated to the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

The Apostolic Delegate's letter to the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States follows:

"Your Excellency:

"On April 18, 1943, through His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, the Holy Father has requested that I invite Your Excellency and your faithful to join with him in prayer during the month of May. As in preceding years His Holiness will invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the needs of humanity and for the attainment of a just peace. Realizing that war is a consequence of the rejection of divine teachings the Sovereign Pontiff recommends a return to religion and honesty and earnestly exhorts all Catholics to consecrate themselves to the Heart of Mary in their resolution to lead a better life.

"His Holiness explicitly calls upon the school children for prayers during their May devotions. Especially in the pleadings of these innocent souls —many of whose lives have been deeply affected by the war—rising in mighty chorus before the throne of God is there hope for the blessings of peace and mercy upon a disordered world.

"I am sure that Your Excellency will bring the invitation of the Holy Father to the attention of all your clergy, religious and faithful, so that with the Vicar of Christ all Catholics may join in an appeal that will be pleasing to Almighty God and will find its answer in the blessing of a speedy and lasting peace."

"Victory Corps Bill" Protested by N. C. E. A.

ASSERTING that the "Victory Corps Bill" now before Congress "would give the United States Office of Education the power to control the curricula and activities of the secondary schools of the country during wartime," the National Catholic Educational Association has expressed its opposition to this measure in a communication to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

Writing in the name of the N. C. E. A., of which he is secretary general, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Johnson tells Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, chairman of the Senate Committee, that the Association "does not object to the Victory Corps as such," and that "many Catholic secondary schools are participating in the program." He adds that the N. C. E. A. objection is to the present bill, which would appropriate $8,500,000 a year and which provides that the Federal Government shall pay the salaries of "State directors of a High School Victory Corps, of supervisors of physical fitness, aeronautics, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and of occupational information and war service counseling."

Msgr. Johnson says such directors, as a consequence, would "become the instruments whereby the Office of Education would influence the secondary schools to adjust their organization and curricula so as to meet what it considered the proper requirements for a program for the preparation of youth for wartime service." This, he declares, "would constitute an unwarranted intrusion on the part of the Federal Government into the affairs of our American secondary schools."

NCCS ON THE SPIRITUAL FRONT

By Elizabeth Odell

I shall receive Holy Communion on Mothers' Day,
May ninth, as a spiritual bouquet for you."

TO some 500,000 Catholic mothers with sons in the service, both here and overseas, this brief message will bring an immeasurable onsolation—the reassurance that years of careful eligious training at home are not being undone uring the period of military service. To each nother it will bring the sure knowledge that, uring his hours away from camp or station, her n finds a welcome among others who, like herelf, are concerned primarily with his spiritual elfare.

The Mothers' Day greeting that will be mailed ome from USO clubs operated by the National atholic Community Service this year is but one anifestation of the grave responsibility NCCS as undertaken to supply directly or indirectly he religious activities which have been part of the ormal home life of men and women now in the rmed forces and in war industries.

As a member agency of USO, as well as the fficial Catholic war work agency, NCCS is singularly fitted to assume this responsibility. The ounders of USO—the leaders of six great private elfare agencies uniting to assist the nation in its ime of crisis—have forged out of their common deals and purposes a unique experiment in religious cooperation. Unlike all purely secular organizations, USO recognizes the basic importance f religion in any welfare program. As USO resident Chester I. Barnard stated in a recent Washington address: "It is an organization in which groups of different faiths agree to cooperate or the best interests of each, and at the same time o so conduct themselves that all persons of any aith or race will be welcome in any operation onducted in its name."

By placing this emphasis on the spiritual welfare f those it serves, USO is able to coordinate tremendous resources in professional staff, modern quipment, and warm-hearted community generosity in a venture aimed at the highest possible urpose—the spiritual good—while at the same ime satisfying recreational, cultural, and other elfare needs.

To have at heart the *whole* welfare of servicemen and war workers implies seeing to it that they are armed first of all with *spiritual* weapons to combat the manifold dangers of war.

In supplying religious materials and services, the directors of the 360 NCCS-operated USO clubs work closely with the post chaplains, who are best in a position to know the religious needs of their men.

The demand for missals, prayerbooks, pamphlets, rosaries, medals, and other materials for distribution through chaplains and clubs continues to exceed all available supplies. Through the efforts of Rev. Cornelius Collins, NCCS religious consultant, to whose desk comes an endless procession of urgent requests of this kind, the following materials have been distributed to date:

Missals and Prayerbooks	(approx.)—	1,154,435
Pamphlets, Leaflets and Booklets	(approx.)—	1,858,528
Rosaries, Medals, Crucifixes	(approx.)—	1,380,515

To ease the chaplains' task of providing religious services for the men in their charge, NCCS priest-moderators are rendering splendid service in cooperation with the club directors. In many clubs Communion Breakfasts sponsored by NCCS have become regular monthly events, and arrangements for retreats and missions have frequently been made. Attendance at these corporate functions has shown that servicemen and war workers welcome such opportunities to attend to their religious duties with the added encouragement and moral support of the group.

The presence of the moderator in the club helps to lend a religious atmosphere. Moreover, he is always at hand to lead religious discussion groups or to assist those seeking advice or reassurance in personal matters.

In Los Angeles a new USO committee, the Religious Consultants, has been formed to further coordinate the work of the civilian clergy with that of the Army, Navy and Marine chaplains in that area, in answer to the appeal for greater mutual assistance between these two groups issued by Brig. Gen. William R. Arnold, chief of chaplains, United States Army, in a message to the national USO.

"Civilian clergy have a wonderful opportunity to supplement the work of their fellow-clergymen in the service by assisting the USO," General Arnold stated. "There are so many civilian clergy-

(*Turn to page 9*)

The NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* CATHOLIC WOMEN

How To MEET Without Traveling

Institute on Industry

"Where There's a Will There's a Way"

WHILE Catholic women's groups have participated whole-heartedly in wartime activities, assisting in the work of the USO-NCCS, Chaplains' Aid Association, American Red Cross, Office of Civilian Defense, Office of Price Administration, and other agencies, at the same time they have promoted their regular work, that of maintaining unity among Catholic women and of instilling a greater consciousness of Catholic principles in the various lines of interest and endeavor.

Because travel has become more difficult, the president of the Galveston Diocesan Council of Catholic Women writes: "We plan to have a monthly news letter after April 1 . . . to keep our organizations informed of what is transpiring over our large diocese, particularly in these times when contacts are limited." The Most Rev. Christopher E. Byrne, Bishop of Galveston, heartily approved the idea.

That the aims and purposes of the National Council of Catholic Women and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women might become better known among members, several dioceses, including Denver and Wheeling, have recently held meetings or published material relating to these federations.

The Fort Wayne Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, with the approval of The Most Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, has prepared a "Catechism on Organization and Development of the National Council of Catholic Women," which in question and answer form brings out the aims of both the national and diocesan group, suggestions for committee chairmen, and, in closing, lists the achievements or benefits resulting from organization of the diocesan council. A review of activities, such as this, often reveals the real benefits of organization and cooperation:

"From the latest report there are over 480 discussion groups with a total approximate membership of 5,800. . . . There are over 45 active Catholic Parent-Teacher groups and Mother's Clubs. These groups have given valuable assistance to the parochial schools by promoting health programs, visual education, supplemental class room material; provided glasses, dental work, food and clothing for needy children, as well as additional equipment for the schools. . . .

"Since the organization of the diocesan council many Americanization classes have been conducted; a large number of immigrants have been assisted in obtaining their naturalization papers and aided in their alien registration, besides being advised in their individual problems.

"Special study of the papal encyclicals has been encouraged by the Industrial Relations Group. Groups of Catholic business girls and women have been organized.

"Vigilance committees for inspection of magazine racks and news stands have been formed. Hundreds of lists of banned magazines are distributed each month and many undesirable magazines removed from the stands as a result of cooperation with the N. O. D. L. The showing of objectionable movies has been prevented in many cases and action taken to prevent enactment of adverse legislation.

"The Douay version of the Bible has been placed in practically every Public Library in the Diocese. Catholic book lists have been made and distributed and special Catholic book shelves in the libraries encouraged.

"Increased use of the Missal and a greater daily attendance at Mass has resulted. Mass circles, living rosaries, days of recollection and retreats have been encouraged. Members have joined with others throughout the nation in encouraging the purchase of religious Christmas cards, with a noticeable increase in the demand for this type of card.

"Youth activities are sponsored in almost every parish.

"While women have always taken part in social service and welfare activities, group participation has been especially encouraged and results show that the diocesan council has been responsible for numerous achievements in this field. Representation of Catholic groups in civic enterprises has greatly increased.

"Not the least of the benefits are the contacts developed among the different parish groups through attendance at district and deanery meetings, diocesan, regional and national conventions

and conferences, where common problems are discussed and solved and lasting friendships made."

The president of the Davenport Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has been conducting a column in the diocesan paper, using material from N. C. W. C. and N. C. C. W. pamphlets to give further suggestions for activities.

Since in May is to occur National Family Week, a number of diocesan councils are stressing the Christian home at their regular meetings and conventions. The Fort Wayne Diocesan Council is building its convention on the theme "The Preservation of the Christian Home." The Natchez Diocesan Council is emphasizing the preservation of Christian family life, clean literature, and charity in its programs. The St. Augustine Diocesan Council has inaugurated a diocesan-wide program of study on "Catholic Family Life."

Taking suggestions from the program issued by the Catholic Committee on National Family Week, the College of St. Francis, Joliet, Ill., in the Peoria Diocese, has planned a week's program. Students and adult speakers will present such topics as "Putting a Punch in Family Religion," "Parish Family Life," "Priorities of the Child," "Family Defense," "The Post-War Horizon on the Home Front." Plays and skits depicting social problems will also be given. A day of reparation and prayer for the modern family, under the sponsorship of the Sodality, will conclude the weeks' observance.

The various reports of work undertaken by the diocesan committees on Cooperating with Catholic Charities indicates an overwhelming interest in child welfare. Diocesan groups interested in finding foster homes, as well as boarding homes for children, include Fort Wayne, Toledo, and Los Angeles. Visiting Children's Homes and taking Catholic children within the home to Mass have been activities sponsored by Fort Wayne and Toledo. The Santa Fe unit reports taking children to clinics, finding jobs for parents, securing housekeepers in cases of illness.

The Big Sisters of Chicago, which has just issued its yearbook, "Twenty-Five Years of Service," has, through its various committees, befriended young girls who have come before the Juvenile Court, and has provided clothing and scholarships for needy children.

The Ladies of Charity of the Archdiocese of New York, in their fortieth annual report, record free lunches, distribution of religious articles and magazines to institutions, as well as aiding in employment and in finding rooms for adults.

St. Louis and Harrisburg report distribution of milk to needy children in parochial schools.

The Portland, Maine, group have been sewing garments for children. A splendid report of cooperation between the diocesan councils and the diocesan bureaus of Catholic Charities are contained in the reports of the Des Moines and the Indianapolis Diocesan Catholic Charities.

Adult members of the Committee on Cooperating with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine have been studying the Mass. Two hundred and fifty members of the South Bend Deanery (Fort Wayne Diocese) recently attended the first Dialogue Mass ever to be celebrated for the women of the Diocesan Council in the Diocese. "Why All Should Go to Mass" has been the topic of study of the Brenham District, Galveston DCCW. The chairman in the La Crosse Diocese has been running a series of informational material in the La Crosse edition of *The Register* to aid parish chairmen of this committee.

Mrs. Robert Mahoney, vice chairman of the National Committee on International Relations, has aided in the scheduling of a series of peace talks in May, sponsored by the women's group of the Cathedral parish in Hartford. An invitation is being issued to the public to attend these talks.

Groups studying various phases of international relations include Spokane, whose study club program for the year was based on the theme, "In time of war, prepare for peace"; Waco District of the Galveston Diocesan Council: La Crosse and Nashville Diocesan Councils. The president of the Natchez Diocesan Council has called upon all groups to study post-war problems.

Mass Circles, Living Rosary Circles, and Days of Recollection continue to be formed for peace and for men in the service.

Diocesan Councils report an increasing attendance at retreats and days of recollection. Seattle and Spokane reported a notable increase at their last annual retreat. Kansas City held an annual retreat March 19.

In the Chicago Archdiocesan Council, a Retreat Committee has just been arranged to work in conjunction with the Daily Mass Committee.

The number of deanery retreats and days of recollection, because of difficulties in transportation to diocesan ones, are increasing in number. In the Dioceses of Fort Wayne, Nashville, and Toledo, such deanery retreats have been held recently.

Thus, through the various committees, Council women are constantly reviewing Catholic principles, are bringing these principles before the public, and are holding firm, in this time of crisis, to those immutable truths whose observance will make this a more Christian world in which to live.

Council friends will rejoice in the honor which recently came to the Rev. August Fussenegger, diocesan director of Catholic Charities and spir-

itual director of the Indianapolis Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Father Fussenegger was recently elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor.

Mrs. Henry Mannix, president of the Brooklyn Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, was appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Catholic Community Service.

Appointment as a member of San Francisco's Art Commission was an honor recently bestowed upon Miss Florentine Schage, past president of the San Francisco Archdiocesan Council.

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Elizabeth Geiger, a member of the Board of Supreme Trustees of the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association; of Mrs. R. D. Harrison, president of the Mobile Diocesan Council; and of Mrs. Rose Hagus, for many years capable Denver Archdiocesan publicity chairman, who during this time sent many fine articles and reports to national headquarters for use in CATHOLIC ACTION. Mrs. Hagus was in charge of publicity for the tenth annual national convention of the N. C. C. W. held in 1930 in Denver.

FORECAST OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL INSTITUTE ON INDUSTRY

An attractive leaflet is being distributed at this time by the National Council of Catholic Women. It carries a message about the Seventh Annual Institute for women workers which opens on June 6 and continues through June 12.

The Institute on Industry was started in 1937 and has been repeated with increasing success in the succeeding years. It was organized to help women workers analyze clearly their own economic problems and to give them a knowledge of sound Catholic social teaching which would guide their activities in a labor movement directed toward a better social order. The students were given opportunity to discuss with competent leaders problems confronting them in the work shop, in their attitude toward other workers, and the best solution to them.

Well over 100 students have attended this Institute. They have given evidence of their deep interest in it and the opportunity it offered them in helping to create new outlooks for them, broader viewpoints and a new interest in their work, the other workers, and the industry that employs them.

The curriculum has centered each year on subjects designed to meet the needs of the students who have helped by their suggestions to shape the program. It has changed to meet the current needs and to deal with current problems.

The program outlined for the Seventh Annual Institute covers labor problems, war economics, labor standards, workers as consumers, parliamentary law and public speaking. There will be special group discussions on post-war plans, labor's relation to community life and the worker's health.

Last year the students organized the Alumnae Association, pledged to double the attendance this year and to develop the Institute "into a large and effective service to carry the social principles of the Catholic Church into the labor movement."

The outlook for this year gives evidence that the members of the Alumnae Association will make good their pledge. One of them writes: "I taught the past year and I have had some warm discussions. I am bringing two friends with me to the Institute this year to give them a broader viewpoint."

"I'm coming if I have to walk;" "I hope to have a week's vacation which I shall take at the Institute," are some of the comments in letters from former students and members of the Alumnae.

A scholarship has been received from the Catholic Daughters of America; one has been provided by the Brooklyn Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and four scholarships from the International Ladies' Garment Workers. Where will the next come from? We think we know.

WITH OUR NATIONALS

A spiritual bouquet of Masses and Holy Communions was offered by the members of the Junior Catholic Daughters of America for the intention of his Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

Members of the Sodality of Our Lady, in observance of World Sodality Day, May 9, are preparing to receive Holy Communion, renew the Act of Consecration to the Blessed Mother, and pray for the intentions of Our Holy Father.

The inclusion of Christian principles in the peace pattern will be stressed at the 1943 Sodality Summer Schools of Catholic Action. The Chicago meeting will be held July 5-10; New York, August 16-21.

Marion Horn, director of the Youth Movement of the National Catholic Women's Union, calls upon youth to enroll brothers, relatives, or friends in the armed forces in "The Confraternity Home Study Service," St. Louis, Missouri. Miss Horn also calls upon Youth to help in the support of this worthwhile movement.

In *Religious War Service by Mail*, a colorful leaflet, "The Confraternity Home Study Service" gives credit to the Daughters of Isabella for their outstanding contribution to this worthy cause. Letters quoted from those taking the course by mail reveal how much it means to Catholics as

well as to non-Catholics. To some, it is a review of Catholic principles, learned in childhood, but forgotten during the intervening years; to others, it is a source of inspiration and strength, an answer to doubts that constantly arise.

Those interested in youth are most concerned about work opportunities after the war. Therefore, a study of occupational possibilities is always of interest. Such a study for the various states has been made available by Miss Horn and may be consulted by youth groups of N. C. W. U. To those going into industry at the present time, the counsel is given to know well the teachings of the papal encyclicals.

Miss Esther Cranher, regent of the Daughters of Isabella, New London, Connecticut, has been awarded a gold cross by the Most Rev. Maurice F. McAuliffe, Bishop of Hartford, in recognition of her faithfulness and untiring efforts in diocesan charities, and particularly for her work in USO Clubs.

An explanation of and suggestions for participation in the many wartime services are contained in the magazines of national organizations coming to our attention.

The March issue of the magazine published by the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters carried articles on the value of blood donations, on point rationing, on price control, and on the war bond and stamps program.

The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae carried in its *Quarterly Bulletin* an article on the Pope's Peace Plan. It lays the responsibility for a lasting peace at the door of each and every man and woman. "It is the responsibility of men and women in the fighting service," says the article in part, "to give us physical peace. They are doing their uttermost. It is equally the responsibility of those of us at home to plan to make that peace secure and lasting. . . . It is our everyday habits which will in the long run determine whether or not we are strong enough not only to write a peace plan, but to live by it. For unless we do prepare our own selves with an attitude for a just peace, a peace that is charitable, not revengeful, in its justice, then our efforts" will be in vain.

The same issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* carries suggestions for work in inter-American relations.

The Indianapolis Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses has become affiliated with the Indianapolis Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, thus effecting closer cooperation between these groups.

The Washington, D. C., Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Nurses has been holding a series of lectures on the campus of Catholic University on Catholic aspects of home nursing. The lecturers, members of the faculty of Catholic University, have included such topics as "The Sanctity and Function of the Home," "The Rights and Duties of the Church to Legislate," "The Rights of the Unborn," "Mental Health," "Physical Health," "Emergency Baptism," "The Spiritual Care of the Dying," and "Rationing and Dieting."

This course is being offered to Catholic nurses that they may supplement the regular Red Cross Home Nursing Course with Catholic principles relating to the particular lesson. The national headquarters of the American Red Cross gave permission to the group that Catholic nurses giving home nursing instruction in Catholic centers might preface or conclude the lesson of each class with Catholic instruction. It is for this reason that the class was organized—to review the supplementary Catholic material. A number of non-Catholic nurses and members of the N. C. C. W. headquarters staff have attended the class.

At the present time, three home nursing classes are being taught by members of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Nurses in Washington parishes.

Mrs. Charles J. Seibert is president of this group and the Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, O.P., is spiritual director.

The Pennsylvania State Court of Catholic Daughters of America have invited Mrs. R. A. Angelo, N. C. C. W. president, to be present at and address their state meeting, to be held at Lancaster, May 19.

NCCS ON THE SPIRITUAL FRONT

(*Continued from page 5*)

men who, for one reason or another, cannot become chaplains. I try to show them that they have equal opportunity to serve through the USO."

Through this committee, chaplains will be able to suggest the needs of men in camps to the clergy in the community and receive assistance. It is hoped that such a plan will be put into effect in other communities.

During the Lenten season NCCS club directors, working closely with moderators and post chaplains, redoubled their efforts to create a spiritual climate in which men and women of whatever faith might work toward a truly reverent observance of Holy Week. Face to face with war's hazard to the well-being of their souls, thousands of men and women are daily coming to a sharper realization of spiritual values.

The National Catholic Community Service is privileged to lend a hand in this reawakening, in order that, when peace comes, those now in their country's service may return home with a faith more deeply rooted than before.

MONTH by MONTH

CATHOLIC ACTION

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"We have grouped together, under the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the various agencies by which the cause of religion is furthered. Each of these, continuing its own special work in its chosen field, will now derive additional support through general cooperation."

—From the 1919 Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the U. S.

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Opinions expressed in articles published in this magazine are to be regarded as those of the respective contributors. They do not necessarily carry with them the formal approval of the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Bishop Joseph C. Plagens Claimed by Death at Age of 63

In the death of the Most Rev. Joseph C. Plagens, Bishop of Grand Rapids on March 31 at the age of only 63 years, the Hierarchy of the United States suffered another loss. Bishop Plagens, who was fifth Bishop of Grand Rapids, had been Bishop of Marquette and previous to that Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit. He became Ordinary of Grand Rapids in December, 1940.

Born in Posen, Poland, the late prelate spent practically all of his life in Michigan, having been brought to Detroit by his parents in 1884 at the age of four years.

He attended St. Casimir's Parochial School and Detroit College, now the University of Detroit, and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, and was ordained to the priesthood on July 5, 1903. After holding several pastorates, he was named Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, which post he held for eleven years until he was translated to the Diocese of Marquette as Ordinary. During his five years there he rebuilt the Cathedral of St. Peter, which had been destroyed by fire. He was widely known for his Americanism activities among the Polish residents of Detroit.

Bishop Plagens was buried on April 6 from St. Andrews Cathedral, Grand Rapids, and the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, officiated. *May his soul rest in peace!*

Monsignor Joseph A. Burke Named Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo

Announcement has recently been made by the Apostolic Delegation in Washington of the appointment by the Holy Father of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Aloysius Burke, pastor of St. Mark's Church, Buffalo, as Titular Bishop of Vita and Auxiliary to the Most Rev. John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo.

Bishop-designate Burke was born in Buffalo August 27, 1886. He attended Canisius High School and Canisius College in Buffalo, and made studies at Innsbruck in Austria from 1907 to 1912. He was ordained to the priesthood in St. Joseph's Old Cathedral in Buffalo by the late Bishop Charles Henry Colton, in 1912. From then until the present he has served as assistant pastor and pastor in Buffalo and other cities of the Buffalo Diocese with the exception of the years that he spent as a United States Army chaplain in the first World War. Bishop-designate Burke saw service at that time on the Belgian front. Among his other assignments was that of assistant pastor at both St. Joseph's Old Cathedral and St. Joseph's New Cathedral.

In addition to being a Parochial Consultor, Bishop-designate Burke is a member of the Bishop's Committee for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Buffalo, the Board of Directors of the Catholic Pamphlet Society, and the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Diocesan War Council. He has served on the teaching staff of the Mt. Carmel Guild and of D'Youville College, both in Buffalo.

Catholic Committee on National Family Week Issues Booklet on Marriage and the Family

A booklet containing a 13-point statement on marriage and the family as well as an outline of proposed activities has just been put into distribution by the Catholic Committee on National Family Week in connection with the celebration of National Family Week from May 2 to 9.

Interfaith observance of National Family Week with different religious faiths carrying on parallel programs of their own resulted from a common recognition of the emergency which has arisen from the disturbance of family life as a result of the war and the necessity for constructive action by all community forces.

The committee's statement on marriage and the family emphatically reminds that marriage is a divine institution which cannot be changed by man; as a natural law contract, it is a sacred and permanent union; that it is a Sacrament; and that it is a symbol of the union of Christ and the Church.

The pamphlet may be secured from the National Catholic Welfare Conference at 10 cents per copy, $6.00 per hundred, postage extra.

with the N. C. W. C.

ctivities of Fair Employment Committee sked by Church Representatives to Be Revised

Representatives of the Catholic, Jewish and Protestant urches today called on Paul V. McNutt, chairman of e War Manpower Commission, to make known their ncern over racial discrimination in war jobs and to urge e early revival of the Fair Employment Practice Comittee, which was brought under Mr. McNutt's jurisdicon last fall. Since January no hearings have been held by e committee and several of its members, including its forer chairman, have resigned.

Among those participating in the interview were Rt. Rev. sgr. John A. Ryan, director of the N. C. W. C. Social ction Department and the Rev. John M. Hayes, of the epartment.

The group discussed the problem of re-activating the E. P. C. The good results achieved by the Committee its first two years of existence in the matter of opening job opportunities to those previously barred through one another form of discrimination were cited. Monsignor yan, in opening the conference, called attention to the oral and religious issues involved in excluding Negroes, exicans and other minorities from fair chances to work.

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ditor of "Noticias Catholicas" omments on Latin-American Trip

Returning from an extensive Latin-American tour which ok him to every country of Latin-America except two, arlos A. Siri, editor of *Noticias Catolicas,* world-wide atholic news service issued by the N. C. W. C. Press Dertment, stated that the purpose of his trip was to rengthen the ties of friendship already existing between *oticias Catolicas* and the subscribing publications of Iberomerica, and, where it was not known, to explain the aims the enterprise, its spirit and its work.

Only upon spiritual foundations can a beneficial, lasting d fruitful continental solidarity be constructed since the ountries of the Western Hemisphere differ so vastly in ings material, Mr. Siri said.

"During my tour, which lasted seven months and a half, visited some 40 cities in 18 countries," Mr. Siri said. "I d the honor and the pleasure to be received and to speak ith 53 Archbishops and Bishops, and for the practical purses of my mission, with the directors and editors of 123 nportant Latin-American publications. I also visited and lked with several scores of the directors of Catholic Action d with numerous leaders of social and educational Cathic organizations."

Noticias Catolicas, edited in Spanish, first appeared on ay 2, 1941. At present about 90 Latin-American publitions are using its dispatches. The daily papers alone in e list have a circulation of about one million copies.

Pope Pius XII and Peace: 1939-43"— apal Peace Program in Holy Father's Own Words

A new compilation of the messages of Pope Pius XII on e subject of international peace, beginning with his inaural radio message to the world on March 3, 1939, and ntinuing through his Christmas, 1942, pronouncement, s just been published by the National Catholic Welfare onference.

The purpose of the present collection is "to make permanently and easily available to the American public the most important parts of messages which analyze the causes of the world's anguish and offer proposals for the reign of justice and peace in social and international relations." It is intended also to show the continuity of the Holy Father's efforts "to get an acceptance by the nations of those principles without which there can be no hope of peace though the war be won."

Among the messages quoted are the four famous Christmas messages with their specific proposals, which have come to be regarded as the "Pope's Peace Program," and the Pentecost address, delivered on the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of *Rerum Novarum,* which advances moral directives for the ordering of economic and social life so as to secure and maintain peace. Included also are: the moving appeal for trust in God, for courage in adversity and for faith in the triumph of good over evil contained in "Divine Providence in Human Events"; appeals to belligerents for humane treatment of civilian populations; and the text of the dedication of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The booklet is priced at 10 cents per copy singly, $8.00 per hundred; postage extra.

Labor and Capital Meet In Wheeling at C. C. I. P. Meeting

An informed and effective Christian conscience is the only power which can bring capital and labor to a realization of their respective moral rights, the Most Rev. John J. Swint, Bishop of Wheeling, said in an address to the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems in Wheeling, W. Va., on March 25, 1943.

Arranged by the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the sessions brought to Wheeling national figures in the fields of industry and labor.

Opponents to "Equal Rights" Amendment Listed in "Congressional Digest" Discussion

The April issue of the *Congressional Digest* features the "Equal Rights" Amendment to the U. S. Constitution now pending before Congress as its monthly topic for discussion, and in doing so lists the "pros" and "cons" on the subject.

Among a formidable array of individuals, Catholic organizations, labor and women's groups who are listed as outstanding opponents to the measure are two representatives of the N. C. W. C. Social Action Department—Right Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan, director of the department, and Linna E. Bresette, field secretary. Also listed as opponents are Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter of the U. S. Supreme Court; William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National League of Women Voters; the American Association of University Women; The Women's Trade Union League, the Congress of Women's Auxiliaries, C.I.O., and many others.

"For the Asking"

Up to date lists of summer schools and summer camps, a regular service of the N. C. W. C. Department of Education, are now available free of charge.

NOT YET THE DAWN

Contributed by
N. C. W. C.
Bureau of Immigration

Over the Mountains—The war continues to intrude more and more into the work of the N. C. W. C. Bureau of Immigration, which is natural, of course, since there is practically no activity in the world on which the gory hand of Mars does not likewise lean more heavily from day to day.

When the Germans marched into what was previously called unoccupied France, the Bureau decided it would probably hear no more of the poor applicants for American visas who had managed after unimaginable hardships to reach that unstable haven of refuge. But the instinct for escape is as strong in the human animal as in his four-footed brothers and gradually word begins to come through of a Bureau's client here and there who has mysteriously arrived in Spain. How? Well,— "We have received exciting news," writes an anxious relative in this country—himself a recent refugee. "Mr. and Mrs. S. have succeeded in escaping from France to Spain. They had a march of thirty-six hours through the snow over the mountains and my sister-in-law writes that it is almost a miracle that they are alive. The news came by a letter mailed from Lisbon." And another writes: "I am very happy to be able to tell you that Mrs. G. escaped the Nazis at the last hour. Nine days after they occupied Marseille she left there and got over the Pyrenees through Andorra. She suffered very much because she had to climb up to a height of 2,700 metres through ice and snow. Her feet were frozen when she reached the Spanish border."

Now that these people are in Spain, what happens? Well, the important thing is that there is still an American consul in Madrid. Without a consul one cannot, of course, obtain the all-important visa. Also the State Department is now giving special consideration to applicants in Spain due to the uncertainty of what may happen in that country. Sometimes advisory approval for the issuance of a visa is forthcoming without further formality, in spite of such approval having been previously withheld. Where there is an unfavorable factor, the case is still held up for the usual six months, however, and new forms must be filed and new appearances before the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee arranged for. Uncle Sam is still taking no chances, no matter what the apparent hardship.

Whereabouts Unknown—Not so fortunate a fate as that of the refugees who have fled across the mountains has been that of the Austrian mother of another client of the Bureau's whom he has been bending every effort toward bringing to this country for the last three years. The son was handicapped by the fact that he had reached here in an almost destitute condition himself and had only been able to gather together enough money for his mother's passage. There was, however, also his maternal aunt who had always mothered the whole family and to whom he was almost equally devoted. The two elderly women just could not be separated. The desperation of the young man in trying to get sufficient funds together to enable his dear ones to escape from their Nazi dominated country was truly pathetic. They were partly Jewish by blood and as such were subject to all the laws against non-Aryans which Hitler had been able to think up. The Bureau advised and helped the son in every way that it could with all the technical details that are now so important. But the additional passage money for the aunt and the needed reserve funds that would convince the consul that the son could support two more people still continued to be lacking. "There is one thing that I know now," wrote the son, when it still seemed that he might get his mother here, "that the life of a human being is worth $400. Only because I do not possess the money necessary, these inseparable sisters will be separated and the one who was always the mother for her whole family of brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews will have to face the most terrible end of her decent life." And then suddenly it was too late for either mother or aunt. The United States entered the war. Nothing since but the silence that has enveloped all the warring countries until the recent tragic word which has reached the son from a neutral source in Europe. His mother, aunt and most of their relatives have been deported from Vienna "to an unknown destination, probably some place in Poland."

Going Home—Another touch of the war entered into a recent request transmitted to the Bureau from the Social Service Division of the Marine Hospital on Staten Island. This concerned the impending repatriation to Brazil of a Brazilian seaman who has lost his legs as the result of the torpedoing in the North Atlantic of the

American merchant ship on which he was serving. As a result of exposure and frost-bite both lower extremities were amputated above the knee. He was returned to New York as a survivor and admitted to the Marine Hospital, where he was fitted with artificial limbs. The Brazilian Government has authorized his return transportation to Bahia by aeroplane, where he will be turned over to the care of his uncle. His wife and child reside in the interior of the country. The Bureau was asked to have its corresponding agency in Brazil get in touch with the seaman upon his arrival and assist him in availing himself of the facilities for vocational training which are said to exist in Bahia. This the Bureau has been most happy to do and hopes soon to be able to report what steps are being taken to make it possible for this disabled hero to become rehabilitated.

Auld Lang Syne—The Bureau's New York office was attracted by a recent picture in the *New York Times* showing Archbishop Spellman chatting with an American sergeant during a visit to the American Red Cross service club in London. The sergeant's face seemed familiar and the New York office looked his name up in their files. Sure enough, there he was. Back in 1933 the Bureau had helped him to get a re-entry permit before sailing to visit his parents in Malta. At that time our New York office advised him to think about becoming a citizen, as he had lived here already for three years. Upon his return he showed that he had not forgotten the good advice by calling for assistance in filing application for his first papers and in due time for final papers. Now he is on his way to do his bit for his country of adoption and to pay off a score as well for the much-bombed island of his birth.

Much Ado About Very Little—The N. C. W. C. Bureau does quite often have an odd time over some seemingly rather silly things. For instance, there is the case of Thomas F., which appeared to be a simple enough affair to start with. Just that of a British seaman who had jumped ship upon his arrival here one fine September day in 1929, had continued to remain, had married and become the father of an American-born son and suddenly (and wisely) decided that he had better regularize his status by going to Canada for an immigration visa. But upon being questioned by the cautious Bureau, which knew the kind of inquiries he would have to answer before he attained this goal, as to whether he had ever been in any kind of trouble, he revealed that once, back in 1923, when he was 19, he had been arrested for stealing a cap from a hatshop in Liverpool. There were three or four of them, he said, and he guessed they were smart Alecs and thought it a clever trick to get away with something. The others ran out of the store but the shopkeeper had managed to keep hold of him, and although he had offered to pay for the article, which was worth about 50 cents, had insisted upon calling a policeman. So Thomas was brought before a magistrate, who placed him on probation for 12 months.

Couldn't we ask the Board of Immigration Appeals to grant Thomas voluntary departure in spite of the "crime" committed prior to entry, asked the Bureau's New York office, on the basis of his more than seven years' residence? How, said the Washington office, when he hadn't been arrested? There was nothing to prevent his leaving the country. The only thing was, he wouldn't be able to get back until the "crime" was waived and the administrative delay might keep him a long time out of the United States. So first it was necessary to get "pre-examination" authorized for him, this being a prerequisite for admission to Canada in search of the visa; then, when he was pre-examined and the cap incident revealed, Thomas was, as expected, "excluded" and, as advised, appealed from the excluding decision; following which the appeal had to come on to the Board of Immigration Appeals. The Board asked him to secure from the English court involved a certified copy of the indictment and record of conviction, so the Bureau composed a letter for Thomas to send air mail to the Chief of Police in Liverpool. Back came the reply that the police in England are not permitted to issue a certificate of character (which the Bureau already knew, but it is necessary to comply with official orders). And there the case rests, except that the Bureau has filed an ardent appeal for clemency with the Board, accompanied by copies of the letters exchanged with the police in Liverpool and is confidentially expecting a favorable decision.

After Twenty-One Years—It is that long ago that religious services were instituted in the detention rooms on Ellis Island, but it wasn't until Easter Sunday of this year that Mass was said at an altar especially constructed for this purpose.

The plans for the altar were made and much of the constructional and decorative work was done by Rev. Otto A. Mussmacher, A.A., whom the Bureau recently assisted in securing permanent residence, and who introduced many worthwhile devices tending to make operation of the altar as simple as possible. When closed the altar presents the appearance of a desk but when unlocked reveals a reredos to which is affixed a crucifix, four carved candlesticks and mass-cards.

Since 1922 the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church across the street from the Ellis Island ferry, has seen to it that priests were made available each Sunday for Mass on Island I, this service being in addition to the Mass said in the Ellis Island Hospital on Sundays for over 30 years.

SOCIAL ACTION DEPARTMENT

Two Notable Statements on Peace

THE Ethics Committee of the Catholic Association for International Peace has recently issued two statements—one on a resolution on "Reaffirmation of Fundamental Principles of International Law," the other on "Retributive Justice After the War." The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan, director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, is chairman of the Ethics Committee, the membership of which consists of some 20 prominent ethicists, moral theologians and philosophers.

International Law Principles Commended

The Ethics Committee declares that the resolution on "Reaffirmation of Fundamental Principles of International Law," submitted to the American Governments is "an excellent and encouraging statement" and that "it is in full accord with the principles of the natural law and the teaching of the Catholic Church."

The "Reaffirmation of Fundamental Principles of International Law," formulated by the Inter-American Juridical Commission, of which Dr. Charles Fenwick, former C.A.I.P. president, is a member, was accepted by the governing board of the Pan-American Union and submitted to the American Governments for signature.

The "resolution" declares that the American continent has developed and desires to develop in the future, its international life "on the basis of respect for morality, traditional principles, the observance of treaties, good faith and the rules of humanity, repudiating every act contrary to those essential standards of civilization," and reaffirms six principles "fundamental in the relations of states and essential to the maintenance of peace." There are certain general standards of conduct which take priority over the will of the state; respect by each state for the personality, sovereignty and independence of every other state; states are juridically equal; good faith should govern the relations of states, the use of force between states is repudiated and outlawed; all differences or disputes between states must be settled by peaceful procedures.

The statement of the Ethics Committee concerns itself chiefly with the interpretation of the declaration in the "resolution" that "no state may intervene in the internal or external affairs of another." "Undoubtedly, the signatories to the resolution intended to prohibit only such intervention as would be unreasonable and would constitute a violation of international rights," the Ethics Committee states—but the "precise intent and scope" of the article in question "might, with advantage, have been clarified."

Punishment of International Criminals

Penalties which are best calculated to discourage and deter the repetition of their offenses should be imposed upon those states and individuals that have committed international crimes, the Ethics Committee declared in a statement entitled "Retributive Justice After the War."

Extreme penalties, the statement says, should be imposed upon the leading culprits in Germany, Italy and Japan. "For the minor culprits," it adds, "imprisonment, banishment and other milder punishments would probably be sufficient to safeguard the international common good."

"Inasmuch as all punishment necessarily contributes toward repair of the violated moral order, retribution may be regarded as one end of civil punishment," the statement says. "But it is only an implicit end. The explicit, primary and essential end is the promotion of the common good. Inasmuch as the correction of the delinquent can safeguard the common good, it too may be regarded as a secondary and incidental end.

"The foregoing principles concerning the penal functions of the state in relation to its own members are completely applicable to whatever international organization possesses juridical power over its constituent states. The international authority has the right to punish for the common good of the nations and peoples of the world. Upon those states and individuals that have committed international crimes should be imposed those penalties which are best calculated to discourage and deter the repetition of such offenses. At the close of World War II, the Axis nations should receive such punishment as seems best adapted to prevent any new assaults by any nation upon world peace and civilization. . . .

"At any rate, the United Nations will be in existence with ample physical power and moral authority to punish. To deny them the moral right to chastise the Axis culprits is to assume that the gravest international crimes must go

(*Turn to page* 18)

Cooperation With the National Housing Agencies

THE National Council of Catholic Men endeavors to keep *au courant* with modern movements that are of interest and may prove helpful to Catholic lay groups throughout the country.

On April 1 a meeting was held in the offices of the National Housing Agency in Washington to discuss the Homes Use Program. This meeting was attended by a representative of the National Council of Catholic Men.

The problem of housing in America has become everybody's problem, for housing is actually one of the many commodities rationed during the war. The National Housing Agency has set up regional offices in various vital areas. Funneling down from the regional offices are the activities of the War Housing Center Manager. The manager, together with the local War Housing Committee, advises the Regional Representatives of NHA on the problems and needs of the community.

It is the desire of the NHA that these War Housing Committees should have as members representatives of all the various points of view concerned with housing in a particular community. One of these points of view is, of course, that of the Church. In order to focus the attention of the community, as well as that of the War Housing Center Manager and the Regional Office, upon the problems faced by Catholics in war-swollen communities, there should be a Catholic representative on the Committee.

In many instances the influx of Catholics to a community has made necessary an increase in church and school facilities. Unless there is an articulate Catholic on the Committee, very often the need for these facilities is not made sufficiently apparent. Catholics, too, can present their point of view as to the desirability of certain recreational facilities which are to be provided in the community.

There is another way, too, in which Catholics, whether on these committees or not, can effectively cooperate with the aims of NHA, and that is by recognizing the importance of housing in a wartime economy.

Here is the advice NHA offers all of us in order to overcome this problem:

"1. You can rent any vacant living space—houses, apartments, or rooms—to war workers and their families.

"2. You can remodel or convert any suitable space into additional living quarters for war workers.

"3. You can move out of war production areas, if you don't *have* to stay there, and provide a place for the war workers your country needs!

"Have you a spare room which could accommodate a war worker or two? Or a war worker and his wife?

"Can you cut down on your own requirements and thus give part of your present quarters for rental to a war worker and his family?

"If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes,' then you can be of real service to the war effort and at the same time add to your own income.

"List your accommodations with your WAR HOUSING CENTER or HOMES REGISTRATION OFFICE, which will help make them available to war workers."

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In communities where there is no War Housing Center, the local Council of Catholic Men, the Knights of Columbus, or the Holy Name Society can set up their own housing exchange. Volunteer workers can survey their own sections of the community to determine what houses or rooms are available for occupancy, and then this information can be made available to those seeking accommodations.

In areas where there is a War Housing Center, the local Catholic organizations can be of inestimable help in adjusting transients to their new way of life. This can be done by helping to place Catholic war workers in Catholic homes where there are rooms for rent. The hospitality of the local parish should be extended to such newcomers, not only in order that their stay may be pleasant, but that they may not be tempted to neglect their duty of Sunday Mass and the sacraments by becoming lax when they are away from home.

So, we sincerely recommend to all our affiliates that they become acquainted with the local agency of the NHA and that they make arrangements to cooperate with it.

This is not only a good work so far as the war effort is concerned, but so far as the Church is concerned.

Chicago Catholic Newspaper Assails Proposed Easy Divorce Laws in Illinois

Commenting editorially on three proposed bills pending in the Illinois House of Representatives, which would provide quick and easy divorces, *The New World*, official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago, contends Illinois is no exception to the theory that the State "must strive to protect marriage in order to protect the society by which it exists." But actually, the editorial states, the State "has allowed lax legislation to eat at the foundations of this culture."

The editorial asserts: "The proposed legislation would make the granting of divorce in Illinois an automatic procedure, which would drag down marriage to the level which obtains in Soviet Russia, where a couple can appear before a tribunal and simply announce that they no longer wish to be man and wife. Obviously, the public good would immediately be endangered, when the fundamental institution of marriage would depend upon the whims and fancy of the individual. Separations would be greatly encouraged and would make thousands of reconciliations an impossibility."

"I Am An American Day"

The third Sunday of May each year has been set aside by resolution of the Congress of the United States as "I Am an American Day." The resolution authorizes and requests the President of the United States "to issue annually a proclamation setting aside that day as a public occasion for the recognition of all who by coming of age or naturalization have attained the status of citizenship."

We urge all our affiliates to participate in the celebration of this day by either arranging a program in which their own members participate or else by taking part in programs arranged by state or local bodies.

In the words of the President's proclamation, this day is designed to "assist our citizens, both native and naturalized, to understand more fully the duties and responsibilities of their citizenship, and those special responsibilities in a nation at war."

For assistance in arranging and conducting programs on this day, we suggest that local committees get in touch with the nearest district office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice.

The Newman Association

Since many Catholics, members of our armed forces or civilians in wartime service, are scheduled to pass through or spend some time in London, it may be of interest to our affiliates to know about the services offered by the Newman Association at Hereford House, Park Street, London, W.1.

For the past twenty years Catholic university groups in Great Britain have been linked to similar groups all over the world—in Europe, North and South America, India, Australia and South Africa —through the international organization of Catholic university men and women known as Pax Romana.

In June, 1940, many contacts with European groups were broken, but they were re-established by the arrival in Great Britain of many hundreds of Catholic university men and women from continental countries, some serving in the armed forces, many in the diplomatic or civil services of the Allied governments. To these must be added the large numbers of Catholics from the dominions and the United States now serving in Great Britain.

The International Committee of the Newman Association was formed in order to promote contacts between Catholics from Great Britain and Catholics from abroad, and it is assisted in this work by an International Council which includes Catholic university graduates of more than a dozen nations.

Through the generosity of some Catholics from the Netherlands, the Newman Association has been given the use of a large flat as an Interna-

nal Center. It has been equipped largely rough the generosity of the American Comttee for British Catholic Relief and is being intained so far by donations from British and reign members and friends of the Association. tholics from abroad are invited to use the nter as a club.

The center includes a lounge, reading room and rary and a dining room, and light meals are ailable in the afternoons (3:30 p. m. to 5 p. m.) d evenings (6 p. m. to 8 p. m.).

We therefore suggest that any of our readers no know American Catholics who are or will be tioned in Great Britain, bring the facilities of e Newman Association to the attention of these itors.

Bishop Griffin Addresses Home Finding Association

The post-war problem of providing proper mes in which Christian and American ideals e fostered was discussed on April 1 at the renty-eighth annual meeting of the Catholic me Finding Association of Illinois, an activity the Knights of Columbus.

The Most Rev. James A. Griffin, Bishop of ringfield in Illinois, who is state chaplain of the of C. and chaplain of the Home Finding Assotion, asserted the problem was not only a civic ty but a religious duty as well. Since the establhment of the association, 2,608 children have en placed in Catholic homes in Illinois, and 823 adoption cases have been fostered.

This is a worthy activity and certain of our filiated organizations may find that they, too, ould be in a position to set up and maintain ch home finding associations.

Executive Secretary Gives Radio Talk Supporting Red Cross

Catholics "regard it both as a patriotic duty d a Christian responsibility to participate in the ork of the Red Cross," Edward J. Heffron, ecutive secretary of the National Council of tholic Men, asserted in a broadcast in the inrest of the American Red Cross War Fund Camign, which originated here in Washington on arch 21 and was carried over the Columbia oadcasting System.

Speakers on the program were lay leaders of e Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths. The her speakers included Francis B. Sayre, U. S. igh Commissioner in the Philippines, represent- the Protestant laity, and Henry Monsky, presnt of B'nai B'rith.

The text of Mr. Heffron's address follows:

"Recently thirty Archbishops and Bishops wrote to Norman H. Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross, assuring him of Catholic support and cooperation in the current Red Cross War Fund Campaign. Their sentiments are shared by the Catholic clergy and by millions of communicants of the Catholic Church in the United States.

"It is proper that we put our heart and soul behind the American Red Cross, for its manifold services are meritorious in the eyes of our Government and in the eyes of God. We Catholics regard it both as a patriotic duty and a Christian responsibility to participate in the work of the Red Cross. Like the robes of the Church's religious orders, the uniforms and arm bands of the Red Cross volunteers are symbols of unselfish devotion to duty, of service to humanity, and of mercy.

"There are those who mock these things just as they ridicule the democracies for holding fast to precepts of our Saviour. They scoff at freedom of worship, one of the four freedoms for which we are fighting. But we who have been brought up on the teachings of the Church know that they are the foundation stones of civilization. Remove these things from our daily lives and you sink to the level of barbarism. Exalt them and you exhibit the characteristics of the Children of God.

"It is a blessing that we have in America a national organization so democratic in its operation, so universal in its appeal, that it brings together Americans, regardless of faith, color, or national origin. In a world of chaos, destruction and hate, when subversive forces seek to disunite us, to set neighbor against neighbor, to kindle ancient prejudices, it is a blessing, I say, to have the American Red Cross hold out its arms to us."

Living God Broadcast During Holy Week

During the Holy Week just passed, 42 radio stations throughout the United States and Canada availed themselves of the radio transcriptions of the dramatic broadcast entitled THE LIVING GOD. As was the case in Washington, a number of these broadcasts were made in connection with the drive for Good Friday observance.

The program loses none of its effectiveness, although this is the fourth year these records have been available for rebroadcast.

The Drive For Decency In Print

We wish to call to the attention of our affiliates the fact that a bill has been introduced into the Senate of the United States on January 21, 1943, by Mr. McKellar. It is numbered S. 547 and is entitled "A bill to require that periodicals sent

through the mails and introduced into interstate commerce contain the name of publisher, the place of publication, and for other purposes."

This bill would require that any periodical deposited in the United States mails or introduced into interstate commerce by any means contain, "conspicuously printed on one of its pages," the name and address of the publisher thereof, the place of publication, and the names of the editor, managing editor, business manager, and owner or owners thereof, and, if such publication is published by a corporation, the name of each officer of the corporation.

The punishment provided for violating this section of the act shall consist of a fine of not more than $2,500 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both fine and imprisonment.

This bill seems to be most necessary in order to aid in driving from circulation indecent and salacious magazines, especially those published by "fly-by-night firms." It merits the support of all our affiliated organizations.

In California, on April 3, the State Assembly sent to the Senate, with unanimous approval, the Bashore Bill, prohibiting the lending, selling, giving away, or offering to do either, of obscen literature.

The Senate of the State of Texas recently passe a bill prohibiting the publication or dissemination of any periodical "devoted mainly to the publica tion of scandals, whoring, lechery, assignation intrigues between men and women and immora conduct of persons. . . . Anyone who shall know ingly have in his possession for sale, or shall kee for sale, or distribute or in any way assist in th sale, or shall give away such newspaper, pamphle magazine or printed matter in this State, or who ever shall within this State engage in the showin and exhibition of lewd and lascivious motion pic tures or of lewd and lascivious pictures in penn arcade machines, or of indecent objects or images or shall knowingly have in his possession for sale or shall keep for sale or distribute or in any wa assist in the sale, or give away any such lewd an lascivious motion pictures, penny arcade pictures or indecent objects or images, shall upon convic tion be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by confinement in the county jail for not more than six (6) months or fined not more than one thousand ($1,000) dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

SOCIAL ACTION DEPARTMENT— (*Continued from page* 14)

unwhipped of justice, regardless of the ensuing injury to international order and peace. . . .

Rejects "Guilt of Entire People" Theory

"Assuming then that the United Nations have moral authority to inflict adequate punishment upon the Axis powers, we ask, upon which persons or classes of persons should it fall? According to some more or less prominent writers, dire penalties should fall upon the entire enemy peoples, especially the Germans. In all probability this would be neither practicable nor conducive to the common good of the nations. And it would be unjust to the majority of those punished. The 'imputation theory,' which holds that all the members of a political community automatically share in the guilt of their criminal rulers, is illogical and immoral. . . .

Forestalling of Group Vengeance

"Upon the leading culprits in Germany, Italy and Japan should be imposed extreme penalties. . . . For the minor culprits in the enemy countries, imprisonment, banishment and other milder penalties would probably be sufficient to safeguard the international common good. Not the least important of the contributions made to the international common good by adequate punishment of the enemy malefactors would be to forestal and prevent the enormous amount of private and group vengeance which would otherwise be inflicted indiscriminately upon members of the Axis nations by inhabitants of the occupied countries, and even by groups within the Axis nations upon their fellow nationals.

"Nevertheless, if any of them [the penalties noted above] be not conducive to the primary end, that is, the international common good, it, or they, should not be imposed. For the common good is the supreme end of civil punishment."

LOCAL C. A. I. P. MEETINGS STRESS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, May 1, De Porres Interracial Center, 20 Vesey Street. *Subject:* An International Order and the Papal Peace Plan. *Luncheon Talks:* "The Task of Religious and Cultural Organizations After the War," Dr. George Shuster, president, Hunter College; "Peace Organizations and the World Order," Edward Skillin, associate editor, *The Commonweal*. . . . *CHICAGO*, May 8, Rosary College, River Forest, Ill. *Subject:* Unity in Peace After Victory. *Keynote Address:* The Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago.

THE BOOKSHELF

A few very brief notices of books we think may be of interest to our readers. People seldom read mastheads, so we repeat here what is said elsewhere in our magazine, lest these thumb-nail notices be misconstrued:

"Opinions expressed in articles published in this magazine are to be regarded as those of the respective contributors. They do not necessarily carry with them the formal approval of the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference."

Sheed & Ward, New York, N. Y.: *Constantine the Great,* oyd B. Holsapple. (pp. xix and 475.)

The current problems of world history bear a strange relationship to life of the first Caesar, who became a Christian. For a thousand rs his actions in becoming a Christian and in transforming the pire's capital to the shores of the Bosphorus, thus eventually splitting stern and Western Christendom, and his interference in the Arian ntroversy have profoundly influenced the course of history. This pular, unbiased presentation of the principal facts of life and times this legendary and contradictory character sets in bold relief some the eternal spiritual realities for which men are again shedding ers of blood.

Sheed & Ward, New York, N. Y.: *Dogsled Apostles,* A. H. vage. (pp. xv and 231.)

Heroic missionaries have not passed into history altogether. Miss vage portrays a half dozen or more contemporary Alaskan priests stered about "little Crim," the venerable, universally loved Vicar postolic of Alaska, the Most Reverend Joseph Raphael Crimont, S.J.

Sheed and Ward, New York, N. Y.: *Nova Scotia, The nd of Cooperation,* Leo R. Ward, C.S.C. (pp. xiii and 7.)

Father Ward's journey through Nova Scotia to record the opinions "little men" on Cooperation has resulted in a peculiar book—not rary nor logical, but salty and genuine, reflecting the mixed virtues d weaknesses of the Cooperative dream.

B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, Mo.: *Thomistic Principles in a Catholic School,* Theodore Brauer and Associates. (pp. x and 321.)

Dr. Brauer's associates at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul have graciously published this posthumous series of essays in his name. Their title is accurately descriptive. Worthy of special note and study in view of the contemporary dominance of totalitarian trends in civil governments is the penetrating essay on "Person and Society According to St. Thomas."

Catholic Education Press, Washington, D. C.: *Religion Outlines for Colleges,* Course IV, Life Problems, John M. Cooper, D.D. (pp. xxi and 273.)

The second revised edition of this text for college religion courses combines modernity and practicality with a maturity of scholarship and culture which makes it valuable to parents, priests and educators as well as to senior college students.

National Legion of Decency, 35 E. 51st Street, New York City: *Feature Motion Pictures Reviewed—November 1941-November 1942,* by the New York Office of the Legion of Decency. (pp. 32.)

The quiet, persevering work of this office easily escapes public attention. A perusal of the review of the past year's work should prove invaluable to home and school and like groups.

CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED CATHOLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MAY, 1943

1—Catholic Association for International Peace—regional meeting, New York City, N. Y.

1–2—Daughters of Isabella—State convention, Toledo, Ohio.

2–9—National Family Week.

4—N. C. W. C. Administrative Board Meeting, Washington, D. C.

8—Catholic Association for International Peace—regional meeting, River Forest, Ill.

12–13—Wisconsin State Council of Catholic Women, Oshkosh, Wis.

9–10—Catholic Committee of the South—fourth annual convention, Biloxi, Miss.

11–14—Catholic Hospital Association—twenty-eighth annual convention, Pittsburgh, Pa.

20–21—Catholic Press Association—1943 meeting, Toledo, Ohio.

23—Fifth Annual Solemn Memorial Military Field Mass and Presentation of Wreaths by National Catholic Societies, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

25—Minnesota State Council of Catholic Women, Minneapolis, Minn.

25–26—Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems—regional meeting, Erie, Pa.

JUNE, 1943

1–2—Daughters of Isabella, State Convention, Secor Hotel, Toledo, Ohio.

6–11—Rural Life Summer School—St. Stanislaus College, Bay St. Louis, Miss.

6–12—Institute on Industry—seventh annual meeting, National Catholic School of Social Service, Washington, D. C.

14–18—Rural Life Summer School—Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis.

21–July 9—Rural Life Summer School—St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

JULY, 1943

5–10—Summer School of Catholic Action, Chicago, Ill.—Sponsored by Sodality of B. V. M.

6– 8—Rural Life Summer School—St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Ill.

12–17—Summer School of Catholic Action, Hotel William Penn, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sponsored by Sodality of B. V. M.

26–31—Summer School of Catholic Action, San Antonio, Texas. Sponsored by Sodality of B. V. M.

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By Most Reverend Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, synthesizing the pronouncements of the Holy See since 1939 on the subject of peace. 10¢.

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A clear cut statement on the principles of internal order of states and peoples needed to establish continuing peace. 10¢.

7. America's Peace Aims:

A pamphlet by leading Catholic scholars of the Catholic Association for International Peace. 10¢.

8. The World Society:

A statement of principles and aims that should govern a well-ordered world society. By a group of American Catholics. 10¢.

9. Comparison of Three Programs for Peace and Post-War Reconstruction:

Compares Atlantic Charter, The Pope's Peace Program, and Reports of the Catholic Association for International Peace. 2¢.

10. Crisis of Christianity:

A statement by ten Archbishops and Bishops on today's crisis, which they describe as the most serious Christianity has faced since the Church came out of Catacombs. 5¢.

11. The Militant Christian Virtues:

By Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, O.P., this pamphlet discusses the stern and basic virtues which are a part of complete Christianity. 5¢.

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